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promoted by a larger type and a better paper. Those who have arrived even at middle life read the pages with difficulty, certainly without pleasure or ease.

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3. *Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the Trade and Commerce of the British American Colonies since* 1829. February 6, 1851. 31st Congress, 2d Session. Ex. Doc. No. 23. 8vo. pp. 775.

THIS massive report was prepared by J. D. Andrews, United States Consul at St. John, New Brunswick. An abstract of its statistical tables would demand several pages. Our sole object in this brief notice is, to call attention to one of the most laboriously and faithfully prepared public documents that have ever seen the light. The author has been unwearied in his endeavors to prepare the way for a system of reciprocal free trade between the United States and the British Provinces. He shows that our existing tariff operates as a prohibitory duty with regard to many of the exports from the Colonies, and, in that same proportion, cuts off the profits of the return sales; and that, were all restrictions removed, our ports would be the chief emporia of colonial commerce. Certain it is, that the usually alleged objections to the free trade policy lose their force with reference to the British Provinces. Their inhabitants are so nearly on a level with our people as to the wages of labor and the standard of comfort, that the arrangements suggested by Mr. Andrews could not, by any possibility, bring the industry of the citizens of the United States into competition with pauper labor. As regards the future, too, the vast quantities of unsettled but improvable land in the Provinces, by providing an outlet for superfluous labor, must postpone for many years to come the glut of the labor market, which alone can lead to a permanent reduction of prices. The geographical relations of the United States and the Provinces manifestly indicate the expediency of reciprocal arrangements for commerce on the most liberal scale; while, with the increased facilities for intercourse as between different sections of the same country, restrictions upon trade must every year become at once more irksome in the endurance, and more easy to be evaded. And finally, if we would stave off the awkward question of annexation on the North, with the fierce intestine controversies to which its agitation would give rise, no measures can be so conducive of that end, as those which shall ensure to the citizens of these States and the colonial subjects of Great Britain the commercial benefits which would be almost the only possible advantages of a political union.